

BIG SCARE OVER SMALL BANANA RATS.

Queer Passenger from Costa Rica Lands with a Family of Five.

HISSED LIKE A SNAKE.

Held Crowd of Market Laborers at Bay for Over Half an Hour.

IT WAS FORTIFIED IN FRUIT.

Many Thought It Was a Venomous Scorpion, but a Negro Knew Better and Dislodged It.

A husky truck driver, half a dozen laborers and a small army of spectators were held at bay for half an hour or more last Tuesday by a harmless little banana rat in front of a Washington street commission house. A two-horse truck loaded with half-ripened bananas brought from Limon, Costa Rica, in the Atlas Line steamship, Ardenrose, backed up to the curb, and a number of stalwart porters were busily passing the fruit from hand to hand into the building, when suddenly the truck driver dropped a bunch and leaped from the wagon with a yell. The others crowded around him with anxious inquiries, alarmed at his excited actions and frightened look.

"Here's one o' dose scorpions in dat bunch o' fruit," he explained. "When I had it in me hands de beast hissed at me and stuck out its tongue a foot. I thought sure I was dead."

With the aid of boat hooks and other implements the animated bunch of fruit was landed on the sidewalk, and a group of interested spectators collected. Every time the fruit was touched a hissing sound issued from it, and none of the crowd dared to make a close inspection of its origin. They eagerly speculated as to the character of the unwelcome guest, and every known species of tropical animal life was suggested by those who had read more or less natural history. One thought it was a lizard, while another was sure it was a venomous species of spider, which, he had been told, invariably gave warning of its presence by the peculiar hissing sound that all could plainly hear. The truck driver stuck to his theory of a scorpion, and as he was the only one of the lot who could get even a fleeting glimpse of the intruder he carried the majority with him.

"Nothin' but a B'nanna Rat!" Presently a white little colored man worked his way through the crowd to a point of vantage, near the banana bunch, and, when he heard the hissing sound, he chuckled to himself.

"Dat's nothin' but a measly little b'nanna rat," he said. "Yer needn't be skeered. It kain't hurt y'—dat is, not much. Hif it mought giv y' a leetle scratch wid its teeth, like a mouse, but it kain't hurt ye much."

"Loan me yer club, boss," he continued, turning to the truckman, "an' I'll ketch him for ye." To his hand, protected by the driver's buckskin mitten, into the bunch of bananas, he pulled forth a little fawn-colored animal about the size of an ordinary house rat. It hissed and spit like a frightened kitten as it squirmed and wriggled to get free. He held it firmly out back of the fore legs, and, unfortunately, he squeezed it so severely that he crushed the life out of it before a cage could be prepared.

Banana rats are frequently found on the fruit ships coming to this port from the tropics, but it is seldom that one gets the full story of the life of the animal. The animals make their nests under the fruit, close to the stalk, and these are generally looted loose by the handling or by the rolling of the ship during her voyage, so that they are generally found in new places of refuge in the hold. So rarely do they leave the ship at this end of the route that out of twenty or more commission men and three times as many laborers who have handled bananas for years none had seen one before last Tuesday.

A Peculiar Looking Animal. In the land where the banana grows the little animals are as numerous as mice in a cornfield. They are peculiar looking animals and look like a combination of opossum, kangaroo and common rat. The head is shaped like a sharp-pointed cone. When startled they open their mouths, displaying rows of needlelike teeth, and emit a sharp hiss that is of the nature of a whistle. They are short, like those of the kangaroo, and the long hind legs carry out this similitude. When sitting up on its haunches the banana rat looks much like a miniature kangaroo as anything else, except for its opossumlike head. The tail is extremely long and slender, and the animal is found here had a tail something over ten inches long, while its body would scarcely measure six inches from the point of the nose to the root of the tail. It is very much like a mouse in its appearance, and uses this appendage after the manner of the monkey. Wrapping it tightly around the banana stalk, the rat lies so closely hidden under the fruit that its presence can scarcely be discerned. In countries where the bananas ripen in the open air, a bunch of ripe fruit is a great temptation to these little pests. They are harmless unless cornered, when they will fight savagely to protect themselves or their young, and when they are cornered, they will make a painful bite, but there is nothing dangerous in its effects.

The specimen brought over by the Ardenrose, a female, and she had her family with her, consisting of five diminutive offspring, evidently born on board the ship. When the rats were taken to the market, the mother rat was brought away from the hold instead of scurrying away to a place of safety among the hay bales. The little hairless ratlets clung tenaciously to their mother, and seemed oblivious to what was going on. They refused to loosen their hold until over an hour after the mother rat was dead. The mother rat was finally separated one by one from their parent, but each died, either in the course of the operation or immediately afterward.

POST OFFICE CLERKS AT WAR. Rival Organizations Have Sprung Up and the Old One Has Lost Its Charter.

There are now two organizations of post-office clerks in this city, the old and the new, and the members of the rival organizations do not speak as they pass by. The bad feeling between the two organizations was intensified about a week ago, when the old organization wanted to collect money for legislative purposes and the new organization posted notices in the postoffice asking the clerks not to subscribe. The new organization makes superintendents and head clerks of departments eligible for membership as well as plain clerks. The old organization would have nothing but plain clerks.

The charter of the old organization has been revoked by President Parkhurst of the National Union. In a circular which he has just issued, Parkhurst says every means will be taken to bring about an advance in the salary of the clerks. As the old organization has been in existence for years, it still claims that it is the only bona fide union.

HAWKINS GIVES SMALL BANANA RAT A HINT.

Beautiful Scheme to Revolutionize the World's Money System.

WEIGHT STAMP FOR COINS.

Would Make the Ounce a Monetary Basis Instead of a Gold or Silver Dollar.

MAKES BIMETALLISM EASY.

Under This Elaborate Scheme Money Would Not Vary in Its Purchasing Value, and Banks Would Do All the Worrying.

Farmer J. R. Hawkins, of Mountainville, Orange County, is a financier as well as a practical producer of pumpkins and potatoes. He can drive a good bargain when he takes his produce to market, but the kind of cash he gets is not to his liking. He therefore sent to President-elect McKinley a scheme for a new financial system, and yesterday he received a reply from the President-elect, which he will display with pride at the chief corner grocery at Mountainville.

The theory of his system is that legal tender shall not be based on gold or silver, but shall be currency purchased by gold or silver at the market price. To carry out the plan he would have precious metal coins stamped by all nations with the weight and fineness instead of denomination.

"Let the ounce," he said, "be the basis and unit of weight in this new universal coinage—the fractions one-tenth, two-tenths, three-tenths, five-tenths, the subsidiary division of the same, and the multiples 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 be larger amounts."

"Now, the gold and silver should have an alloy that would give it the greatest possible durability. Instead of using the coins as a general medium of exchange, as at present, let the governments and banks purchase them at their intrinsic market value (the bullion market value), whatever that may be at the time of purchase. The amount purchased shall be held as a reserve fund, against which notes or coin tokens can be issued, expressed in denominations of the currency of the various governments of the world, to a proportion of an amount one, one and a half, two, two and a half or three times the intrinsic value of the gold and silver in this reserve fund, whichever proportion would make the holder of this currency perfectly secure in its intrinsic value in any part of the world."

"There would be no necessity of making these coins a legal tender, because they would have their actual intrinsic value within them, and everybody would accept them as such throughout the world."

A Convincing Argument. "The currency which is issued and based upon these coins can be made a legal tender for all transactions in and under the various governments which issue it, and whenever this currency gets outside the government issuing it the holders of the same shall have a right to demand the coined ounce pieces and fractions and multiples thereof to the amounts of the notes or tokens in their specified denominations of the government issuing the currency at the market value of the gold or silver, at the time they receive it, whatever that may be."

"In this system there would be no change in the value of the currency of the world which was circulating among the people. The people's holdings would be worth just what was represented. The only change would be in the market price of gold and silver, which, if this system were adopted, would not vary 1 per cent in a hundred or perhaps a thousand years, because most of the gold and silver in the world would be owned by the governments and banks to redeem their issues, and the vast proportion of the amount already in their hands would be so much greater than the amount mined in any year that they could not afford to permit an appreciable decline. In consequence of the enormous value it would receive their holdings and not reduce their liabilities. If this system were adopted, the value of 2 per cent of the amount would be greater than all the gold and silver mined any one year."

If there should be any appreciable advance the law could require that it should be paid over to the governments and thus all the people receive the benefit. But if there is a appreciable decline the governments and banks should be required to make good their reserves by consequence of the benefits they receive through the trouble and trip interest they receive on the value of their gold and silver by their issues, and by destruction of these issues through wear, tear and loss in circulating among the people."

Sure Basis for Bimetallism. In Farmer Hawkins's system the basis of value would be expressed in the currency issued by the various governments. The real value would be in the market price of gold and silver, so that it would not make any difference whether a debt ran one or if it should permit the decline would receive the same value for his loan that he gave at the time he made the loan without specifying gold or silver in any contract. The principle of his system receives value both the gold and silver at its market price.

Over this system all questions of parity cease. All premiums and discounts on gold and silver are at an end. All questions of ratio are swallowed up and the principle of a foundation which could not be removed. All property values will be in proportion to the amount of gold and silver mined. The principle involved and developed in this system are:

The representative value is a legal tender and unchangeable. The actual value is not a legal tender and is subject to change by market price. The unchangeable value is in the hands of the people.

The changeable value is in the hands of the capitalists, and has to be kept good by a destruction of their issues and the interests they receive.

The advantages of this system are: The representative value is concentrated and of little weight and easily handled. The actual value is very bulky and heavy and very troublesome to handle. The actual value not being a legal tender, there will be little incentive to hoard by the people.

These places can have just as artistic designs and can be coined with just the same care as if a currency amount was expressed upon them, and thus the question of a double standard settled once and for all, and the principle of a supply of money based upon the two metals.

The first government which adopts this system, Farmer Hawkins says, will be the first to have a currency amount expressed throughout the world, and would become the financial centre of the world unless other governments followed soon enough to prevent it.

SOLE PREACHERS' BREAKFAST LABOR.

Ministerial Exchange Supplies Pastors for Vacancies.

RECORDS CAREFULLY KEPT.

Intended to Save the Expense of Travelling to Preach Trial Sermons.

ORTHODOXY TO BE GUARANTEED.

Ministers Are Kept Informed of Pulpits That Are Vacant, and Charged a Fee and Ten Per Cent Commission if They Get Places.

"Ministers furnished to order" may next be seen among newspaper advertisements in this progressive city, for one of the thoroughly up-to-date institutions recently established in New York is a ministerial exchange which bears an important name and has an eminently fitting location in the American Tract Society Building, where it thrives in a commercial-religious atmosphere.

According to the prospectus of this ministerial labor bureau pastors need not without a flock no longer, nor is there any excuse for churches closing their doors because of an ill or absent clergyman. The most fastidious taste of the most exacting congregation suited with celerity is the idea given out by the circular. The exchange is prepared to furnish supplies of any evangelical denomination at the shortest possible notice, any church within a radius of five hundred miles of New York is the way the circular reads.

Churches in need of a permanent pastor have but to notify the exchange, when a list of all available ministers is sent to them. The names of all the ministers are carefully catalogued, and all the particulars of speech and dress and general propensities of each are recorded. Quality and attainment are set forth at length. If being placed on the list of the exchange the "Committee on Pastor," which thinks of calling on some minister whom, perhaps, they have never seen, or who lives thousands of miles away, but who is highly recommended by friends, can quickly decide if there is any possibility of the candidate being accepted without going to the trouble of requiring him to give them an actual pulpit trial. There is a candidate's card, which, when by his consent, the committee can learn something of the physical attributes of the preacher.

Ministers are furnished by this exchange for churches in which pulpits have become vacant during the month, as well as those pulpits which were vacant the preceding four weeks. The exchange has since opened a pastor. By this means the ministers are notified of all available openings, and can make their choice in making applications. The exchange, however, does not guarantee to secure positions. For these services, and as the circular sent out, New York churchmen and preachers explain it, an annual fee of \$2 is charged "in order to at least partially cover the expenses incurred in securing South preaching for clergymen." Aside from this fee a commission of 10 per cent of the salary is charged for such supply or regular engagements as are secured through the efforts of the exchange.

The exchange has been called upon to furnish supplies for churches of almost all Protestant denominations excepting Episcopalians. The most frequent applications are from Presbyterian churches in churches. The exchange has furnished more supplies to Presbyterian churches than to churches of the other denominations put together. The reform churches have not been slow to recognize the advantages of the system; and the Baptists and the Lutherans are about applicants.

Rev. Ferrer Martyn, who is the director of the exchange, says that the usefulness of the institution is becoming universally recognized, and that it has accomplished great and good things. It saves much time and expense both on the part of the congregation seeking a pastor and the minister hunting a congregation.

Another gentleman interested in the work of the exchange said: "There are labor but for other classes of employment, and why should there not be a bureau for finding work for ministers. They have to live, and living costs a minister just the same as it does anybody else. Any system that simplifies the bringing together of church committees in search of pastors and preachers in every way fitted to meet the requirements certainly must meet with public approval. The idea of making ministers a matter of commerce may seem strange to those who seldom think of ministers as belonging to this earth, but sensible church members must admit that the institution is a good one."

TERRIBLE HUMOR

A Little Boy's Sufferings. Covered with Sores and Raw from Scratching. Cured by Cuticura.

About eighteen months ago my baby boy (now three years old) broke out with horrible sores all over his body, which tortured him night and day. He would scratch to such an extent, that his face and such parts of his body that he could reach with his hands were almost raw from scratching.

After being under treatment by doctors for three months the child got worse, and there seemed nothing that would relieve him.

He had wasted away to a mere skeleton, from want of sleep. A Mr. J. G. Allen, of the Gate City Loan Co., who happened to call at our residence, was attracted by the fearful screams of the child, and asked if he might see him. He was brought in, and upon seeing him, Mr. Allen said that while it was the worst case he had ever seen, he felt sure that it could be speedily cured by the use of the CUTICURA REMEDIES.

Finally convinced, purchasing the CUTICURA SOAP, CUTICURA ointment, and CUTICURA RESOLVENT, and used them according to directions. Before we had been using them three weeks we noticed decided change for the better, the itching began to subside and a healing process had set in. In seven weeks from the time we began with CUTICURA REMEDIES, my little one was completely cured, and without a sign of the trouble left. It is over a year since he has been cured, there has been no return of the trouble, and the little man is now fat and hearty, with a beautiful, clear skin.

Mrs. L. M. RENNIE, 155 Mills St., Atlanta, Ga.

Sworn to before Jos. P. Anthony, N. Y., Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 23, 1896.

SPEEDY CURE TREATED—Wash with CUTICURA SOAP, gentle applications of CUTICURA Ointment, the great skin cure, and mild doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT, greatest of blood purifiers and humor cures.

Sold throughout the world. FORTY-SEVEN C. CO., Sole Proprietors, "How to Cure Every Humour," free.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR BY CUTICURA SOAP.

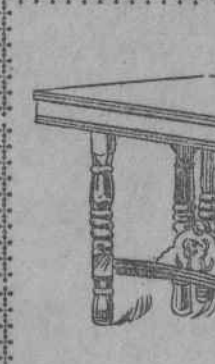
Weak backs, painful kidneys, sore lumps, uterine pains, muscular pains, rheumatism, relieved quickly as an electric flash by the Collins' Voltaic Electric Plasters.

SORE SPOTS.

Weak backs, painful kidneys, sore lumps, uterine pains, muscular pains, rheumatism, relieved quickly as an electric flash by the Collins' Voltaic Electric Plasters.



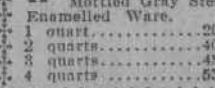
ANTIQUE ASH CHEST, height 4 feet, brass handles, 2.98



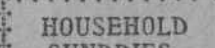
EXTENSION Table of Antique Oak Finish, with handsome turned legs, strong under bracing, conventional carving in broad, side ornamental strengtheners; well polished 2.99



WATER PITCHERS, Mottled Gray Steel, Enamelled Ware, 1 quart, 20c; 2 quarts, 40c; 4 quarts, 50c



THIS cute little Mahogany Table is suitable for writing room, tea or breakfast table, nicely finished turned legs, 2.22



HOUSEHOLD SUNDRIES.

Large size bottle of ammonia, .04

Toilet paper, roll, .04

Scouring soap, .04

Silicon, .07

Pride of the Kitchen, .03

Boon-Aid, .05

Pure pomade, .05

Traveling (small), .05

Perfume (large), .07

Dezma Stone Polish, .02

Gold Dust Washing Powder, .12

Richter's Shaving Cream, .03

Slippers, 3 for, .25

Exquisite, .07

Potash, .19

Galvanized coal hod, .19

Janapanned coal hods, .12

Grain and corn, .18

Kettle, .10

Tin coffee boiler, .10

Four-quart black handle bucket, .10

Colander, .10

Four quart oil can, .10

Round wash tub, .10

Oval wash boiler, .10

Copper bottom, .10

Dish pan, .10

Soup strainer, .08

Muffin pan, .08

Drippler cup, .03

Two quart new pan and cover, .10

Spice tray with six spice boxes, .10

Tea and a half tin, sugar box, .10

Tea and coffee canisters, .07

Washboard, .14

Foot tubs, Mottled Gray Steel Enamelled Ware, 60c, 70c and, .48

COLANDER Tin, well made, heavy block tin, 3 sizes: Small, 7c; Medium, 9c; Large, 12c

THE RUSH CONTINUES.

Our tremendous Carpet Sales and the thousands of rugs sent by us to all parts of the country convince us that a good thing will carry itself through in any country. Our Saxony Axminster at 95c, has attracted thousands of spectators.

A New Spring Line of DUCHESSE RUGS IN ALL SIZES AS FOLLOWS:

1-3x5-0 1-3x5-0 2-2x4-0 2-2x5-0 3-0x5-0 4-0x5-0 7-4c, \$1.48 \$1.73 \$2.12 \$3.12 \$5.24

Royal Handker Wilton with handsome wide borders.

MAHOGANIZED, fine in polished "Ladies' Bonnet" Secrestaire with broad top shelf, carved carcase, with side rails and roller top to the desk; one large wheat bin shaped drawer, with brass loop handles, two square box drawers on the left; large closet at right; brass knobs and handles; very choice and cheap 16.75

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LUDWIG BAUMANN & COMPANY,

America's Greatest Cash and Credit House!

BLOCK---Eighth Ave., 35th to 36th St., New York.

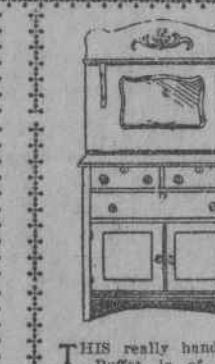
The World's Universal Providers!



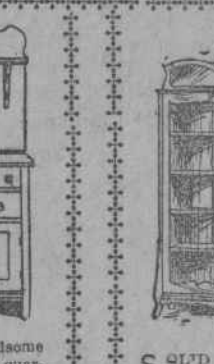
MAHOGANY Wood Seat Rocker, seat to fit the foot, lyre-shaped back, head, 4.20



THIS really handsome Buffet is of quartered oak, finely polished, has two small top drawers, one long drawer and large closet with loop handles and knobs; square mirror and side stanchions, which form a shelf. On the cornice is a lot of nice carving. 6.25



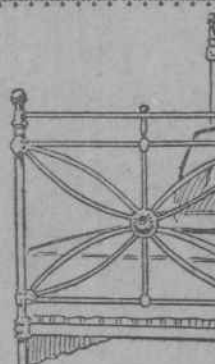
SOLD Combination Bookcase and Desk, with four adjustable shelves, two square large French bevelled mirrors in cornice, sizes 6 1/2 inches and 18 1/2 inches; three deep drawers, brass handles, enameled glass, 17.25



ENAMELLED IRON BED, with brass rails on head and foot. Brass Spindles and Rosettes. High head and foot rail. Adjustable Castors, all sizes, at 4.83



SPLENDID Dining Room Side Table, three drawers, bevelled mirror, 15.30



BREAD RAISERS, Mottled Gray Steel Enamelled Ware, 10 quarts, .08; 14 quarts, .08; 17 quarts, .08; 21 quarts, .12



Excelsior Sham Pillows, Blue and Pink, .42

Feather Pillows, .44

Soft Top Mattress, .44

Fibre Mattresses, Cotton Top, .44

Fibre Mattresses, Hair Top, .44

South American Hair Mattresses, .44

Unholstered Cots, 2x, .44

Woven Wire Cots, Extra Made, .44

Slat Springs, All Sizes, .44

Extension Springs, All Sizes, .44

Folding Springs, All Iron, .44

Woven Wire Springs, All Sizes, .44

THE WAY TO HOUSEKEEPING IS EASY.

An alliance has been formed with Cupid by the great house of Ludwig Baumann & Company, in order to gratify the hearts of so many young people who are thinking about matrimony, and who are wondering how they are going to get the articles with which to go to housekeeping. Our system of furnishing homes on easy payments answers the thought and brings the wish to a realization.



PARLOR—This pretty Suite consists of six pieces, mahogany wood, beautifully polished, upholstered in satin damask, choice of colors, a beautiful mahogany Parlor Table included; Suit laid modestly with macramé; large sofa armchair and two side chairs, very low in 22.95

DINING—This cozy and most charming dining room is fitted up with solid oak sideboard table, six chairs and condoury couch, with fringe to match. choice of colors in the covering. 22.75

BEDROOM—This Suite consists of six pieces, antique oak finish, bed